Implementing Espoo Convention & Protocol on SEA to support 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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SDGs: Key messages and outcomes from Meetings of the Parties to the Espoo Convention and its Protocol (Minsk, June 2017)
Key findings + outcomes from 2017 MoPs on Sustainable Development Goals

- **Minsk Declaration** emphasized the Treaties' role in translating global SDG commitments into practical, national action.
- **Panel discussion on SDGs** confirmed that Convention & Protocol contribute to achievement of SDGs and targets;
- **Decision on possible long-term strategy and action plan** to identify actions, partnerships and funding, including for SDG implementation;
- **Adoption of 2017-2020 Workplan** including activities supporting SDG implementation (capacity building; legislative assistance, guidance).
Legislative assistance and capacity building: Achievements that support most SDGs

• New legislation on EIA and SEA in Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine adopted

• Draft legislation on EIA and SEA in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan prepared (awaiting adoption)

• Practical implementation of SEA enhanced - through training and national guidance documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, and pilot projects in
  – Armenia (Waste Management)
  – Azerbaijan (Renewable Energy)
  – Georgia (Waste Management)
  – Kazakhstan (Energy sector);
  – Moldova (Urban development, Roadmap for Greening Economy);

• Revised Guidelines on application of transboundary EIA for Central Asian countries
Lessons learned and challenges:

• Effective implementation of sustainable development targets requires solid legislative basis and high-level political commitment
• Civil society plays a key advocacy role
• Usefulness of capacity building complemented by sub-regional exchange of experiences
• Often overly negative perception by economic actors of environmental/sustainable measures as costly and cumbersome “control mechanisms”
• Sectoral authorities not sufficiently aware of the benefits of environmental assessment & sustainable development
Further steps under the Espoo Convention & Protocol on SEA:

• With further funding from EU (EU4Environment, 2019-2022), Germany and Switzerland, countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia continue to be assisted to effectively assess, prevent and mitigate environmental and health impacts of their economic development, with a focus on implementation by economic sectors

• Guidance on implementation of health in SEA will be prepared with WHO for 2020;

• Guidance on the application of extension of the lifetime of nuclear power plants for 2020;
Thank you

More information from:
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